



NEWS RELEASE

City of Santa Barbara

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF SANTA BARBARA TO LAUNCH A 9/80 SCHEDULE

Extended customer service hours part of the plan

SANTA BARBARA, CA – May 17, 2007 –

In an effort to decrease traffic congestion and the number of commute trips required of City employees, the City Council has approved implementing a new compressed work schedule to begin in July 2007.

Under the new schedule, called a "9/80 Schedule," most City employees will work the same 80 hours, but over 9 days every two weeks, instead of 10 days. Customer service hours in many of the City's main buildings will be expanded on Mondays through Thursdays, and these buildings will be closed every other Friday. All affected offices will be open to the public for the same or a greater total number of hours. The first closure date will be on Friday, July 13, 2007.

Police, fire, and other patrol and emergency services will not be affected by this schedule change.

Cities throughout California have successfully adopted 9/80 schedules, with office closures on alternate Fridays. City staff surveyed some of the larger cities on this schedule and found that management and public reaction to the schedule in those cities has been positive.

The City has recognized that flexible work schedules reduce vehicle trips and ease traffic congestion that contribute to global warming, and set a goal to increase participation in compressed work schedules to 75% of its work force.

Over the last few years, City employees have been encouraged to adopt compressed work schedules as operational needs allowed, and this has been successful in some departments. However, special challenges related to manpower and communication needs in the City's public counters and administrative offices prevented many employees, who might otherwise contribute to City goals, from taking advantage of compressed workweek schedules. Staff estimates that between 300 and 440 additional employees will be able to participate in a compressed work schedules due to this change.

Office Hours will be as follows:

City Hall will be open expanded hours from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, allowing citizens to complete City business before and after traditional business hours. Offices will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the open Friday. Every other Friday, City Hall will be closed.

Community Development and Public Works counters at 630 Garden Street will be open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and on the open Friday. These offices will now be open during the lunch hour, from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Every other Friday, these offices will be closed. Arrangements for construction or building inspections can be made to accommodate contractors needing inspections on the Friday when the offices are closed. Emergency Dispatch services for water, sewer and streets issues will also be available by calling (805) 963-4286

Other affected offices include the Administrative Offices at the Airport, Parks and Recreation, and Fire Departments. A more complete list of public counter and administrative office hours, and a schedule of Friday closures in 2007, are attached and available on the City's website at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

For more information, contact Kristy Schmidt, at (805) 564-5305.